**Course-Embedded Assignment Reflection**

**EDLD 5333-Leadership for Accountability**

**Performance Task:**

1. *Create an action plan for the campus. Develop an agenda for a professional development day that addresses the targeted campus needs and include a timeline for follow-up professional development.*

**Reflection on Performance Tasks**

**Create an Action Plan for the Campus**

**Self-Assessment**

Creating an action plan for my campus allowed me to step into the shoes of an administrator and to focus on areas that needed the most improvement. As a classroom teacher, I have never been asked to closely examine campus data and to make evaluations and decisions that would impact an entire campus. I relied on my classroom teaching experience (old information) to help me brainstorm ways that we could improve student achievement (new information) in our targeted weaker areas.

**Learn as a Learner**

With a budget in mind and a familiarity of my campus’ dynamics, I approached this assignment with realistic and obtainable goals. I believe that I successfully completed this assignment because I recognized what needed to be improved and what methods would be most effective in helping my campus reach those goals. Changing other’s minds and getting them “on board” with the ideas in my action plan involved opening lines of communication with my colleagues. Because my focus on improvement was in writing, I formed a small learning community with the fourth grade teachers to help with the process. “Teacher learning communities appear to be the most effective, practical method for changing day-to-day classroom practice” (Wiliam, 2007, p. 39). This interaction positively impacted the formation of the campus action plan and convinced me to utilize teacher learning communities in the future to share ideas and collaborate plans to improve student achievement. “Because the plan was developed through consensus, everyone was invested in it and supported it, increasing its chances for success” (Richardson, 2005, p. 35).

**Lifelong Learning Skills**

Through this experience, I gained a better sense of working collaboratively as a team. This kind of learning community as impacted my future plans of setting up student learning communities in my classroom. As a lifelong learner, I will continue to research and pursue ways to improve student achievement. This assignment opened the potential for that happen.

**Develop an Agenda for a Professional Development Day**

**Self-Assessment**

Developing a campus action plan would not be complete without making careful consideration for professional development for teachers. “Rather than providing teachers with more tests, leaders at the state, district, and school levels should invest in a coordinated effort to establish structures and provide resources that support effective professional development” (Heritage, 2007, p. 145). As I prepared an agenda for a professional development day for my campus, I tried to keep in mind the workshops that I had attended (old information) that had the most impact on me as a teacher and in turn the most impact on student learning. Taking this old information and allowing it to guide my decision-making with the new information I acquired in this course, proved to be successful. I was able to create a professional development day that addressed the targeted needs in the campus action plan and that would help teachers *buy in* to the plan.

**Learn as a Learner**

Because I am a visual and hands-on learner, I utilized those aspects in my activities for the professional development day. The teacher learning community that I created in the campus action plan assignment helped guide me in my designing of the professional development day, which also helped me successfully complete this assignment. The learning that occurred in my Lamar course impacted the learning that I was attempting to create through the professional development day. It is the culmination of each of these elements that led to the final version of the plan.

**Lifelong Learning Skills**

Through this experience, I have learned that collaboration with my colleagues can be a very useful tool in uncovering areas of strengths and weaknesses. I will utilize this valuable learning experience to impact my future planning for staff professional development. The learning that occurred as a result of completing this assignment gave me a basis by which to build future professional development days and to research ways in which I could utilize my leadership skills to impact overall campus improvements in the future.

References:

Heritage, M. (2007). Formative assessment: What do teachers need to know and do? *Phi Delta Kappan,* 89.

Richardson, M. (2005), Consensus leadership. *Principal leadership,* 6(4).

Wiliam, D. (2007-2008), Changing classroom practice. *Educational Leadership,* 65(4).